



City of Hartford

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Office of the Director

2 Holcomb Street Hartford, Connecticut 06112

Telephone (860) 543-8860 / Fax (860) 722-6851

E-mail: CMSanchez@ci.hartford.ct.us , or Rrojano@ci.hartford.ct.us

Hon. Eddie Perez, Mayor
Lee Erdmann, Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Ramon Rojano, Director

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Contacts: [Kelly Keaveney](mailto:Kelly.Keaveney@ci.hartford.ct.us) at (860) 543-8820,
Dr. Ramon Rojano, Director of Health and Human Services, at (860) 543-8860,
rrojano@ci.hartford.ct.us

HARTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES LIMITED SUPPLY OF FLU VACCINES THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO PRIORITY GROUPS

Hartford – The 2004-2005 flu season has begun roughly last month with national news of flu vaccine shortage. The Hartford Health and Human Services Department never received its vaccine order from the manufacturer because their operations were suspended indefinitely. In light of the influenza vaccine shortage, the Hartford Health and Human Services Department was able to receive a very limited supply of adult flu vaccine from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) who recommends that we prioritize our population to vaccinate based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and revised guidelines from DPH. These priority groups are as follows:

- 1) Adults aged 75 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions requiring frequent or ongoing medication. This includes adults with a chronic disorder of the pulmonary (lung) or cardiovascular system (heart), and those with chronic metabolic diseases (e.g., diabetes), renal dysfunction (e.g., kidney failure), hemoglobinopathies or immunosuppression (e.g., cancer, HIV-AIDS)
- 2) Adults aged 65 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions requiring frequent or ongoing medication.
- 3) Adults aged 18 to 64 years with one or more chronic medical conditions requiring frequent or ongoing medical medication.
- 4) Residents of long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities belong to one of the above priority groups.
- 5) Pregnant women.

- 6) Caretakers of infants <6 months with severe congenital problems (e.g., congenital heart disease, lung disease) and licensed daycare providers who serve children <6 months of age should be vaccinated as they are seen. However, vaccination of caregivers of otherwise healthy infants <6 months old can be delayed until at least December, when overall adequacy of vaccine supplies will be clearer.
- 7) Any other individual who, in the professional judgment of their health care provider, is at high risk for severe complications or life threatening illness from the flu.

If you are 18 years and older in the priority groups as outlined above, please contact the Hartford Health and Human Service Department at **(860) 543-8800**. We will put your information on a priority list to be called for an appointment. You will get notified to come to a vaccination clinic as long as the supply is available. If no vaccines are available, you will not get notified. If we receive additional supplies of the flu shots in the future, we will contact those that remain on the list.

For further information about influenza and flu shots, their availability, clinic locations and operating hours, residents should contact:

- The National Immunization Hotline web site at www.cdc.gov/nip/flu or 1-800-232-2522 (in English) and 1-800-232-0233 (in Spanish)
- The American Lung Association web site at www.lungusa.org or 1-800-586-4872
- The Department of Public Health web site at www.dph.state.ct.us or 1-800-830-9426
- Hartford Health and Human Services Department (860) 543-8800

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